

a distinct immigration in early March and again in the latter half of October, with very little in between. The sighting of several *Nymphalis antiopa* L. in the spring was a gratifying legacy from the great 1976 invasion, with at least two recorded in the summer. 1977 can be counted as one of the less prolific years in recent times and in the present decade.

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MONMOUTHSHIRE LEPIDOPTERA IN 1977. — In marked contrast to the previous year, 1977 was a disappointing one for Lepidoptera in Monmouthshire. Migrants particularly, were in very depleted numbers. I saw only two *Cynthia cardui* L., one on May 10th and another on September 8th. Single specimens of *Vanessa atalanta* L. were noted on August 28th and October 1st. *Autographa gamma* L. and *Phlogophora meticulosa* L. were much less numerous in the autumn than usual, the latter species reaching its maximum numbers on October 14th when 49 came to my garden m.v. trap. Not a single *Agrotis ipsilon* Hufn. was seen during the year. However, the spell of mild weather with south-westerly winds in October produced here, as elsewhere in the country, an influx of *Palpita unionalis* Hübn. One ♀ came to my m.v. trap on October 16th, two ♀♀ on October 18th, and finally two ♀♀ and one ♂ on October 20th. There was also a ♂ *Orthonama obstipata* Fabr. on October 18th.

However, among the resident Lepidoptera there were some compensations for the poor year generally. 1977 proved a good year for *Ladoga camilla* L., *Argynnis paphia* L. and *Celastrina argiolus britanna* Verity. The first species was especially plentiful in its usual haunts near Monmouth and it was also recorded from a new locality in the south of the county.

*Eriopygodes imbecilla* Fabr. was seen in some numbers at its one known station.

Some of the more noteworthy insects which came to my garden m.v. trap were: *Orthosia opima* Hübn. (scarce in Monmouthshire) March 25th (1), April 20th (1). *Egira conspiciellaris* L., May 28th (♂, 1) — second county record. *Clostrera curtula* L., May 28th (1), August 10th-13th (5). *Peridea anceps* Goeze, May 28th (1) — infrequent in central Monmouthshire. *Harpyia bicuspis* Borkh., June 23rd (1), 24th (1). *Perizoma blandiata blandiata* D. & S., July 7th (1) — scarce in Monmouthshire. *Cryphia muralis muralis* Forst., July 21st (1), August 11th (2), 14th (1). *Pammene aurantiana* Staud., August 1st (1). *Deileptenia ribeata* Clerck, August 10th (1). *Ptycholomoides aeriferanus* H.-S., August 13th (1).

Hopefully, 1978 will be a more rewarding year, and perhaps the recent sighting of a ♂ *Gonepteryx rhamni rhamni* L. flying in my garden on the early date of March 4th, will prove a good omen for the coming season. — Dr. G. A. NEIL HORTON, Plas Newydd, Usk, Gwent.